

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083613
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL GENOA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FLORENCE MAYOR ELIO GABBUGGIANI TO US

REF: ROME 6006

1. IN LINE WITH EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION, DEPARTMENT INTENDS
NOT RPT NOT TO RECEIVE GABBUGGIANI DURING HIS VISIT TO
WASHINGTON.

2. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED ON
GABBUGGIANI ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON. POSTS MAY DRAW UPON
IT AS NECESSARY IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES:

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QUOTE: Q: WHAT IS MAYOR GABBUGGIANI OF FLORENCE GOING TO
DO IN WASHINGTON?

A: I UNDERSTAND THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IS ARRANGING HIS
SCHEDULE AND THAT HIS PROGRAM FOR HIS ONE-DAY VISIT TO
WASHINGTON WILL CONCENTRATE ON CULTURAL RELATIONS.

Q: WILL HE BE SEEING SECRETARY VANCE OR ANYONE ELSE IN THE DEPARTMENT?

A: MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT NO MEETING IS SCHEDULED WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

Q: DID HE REQUEST A STATE DEPARTMENT MEETING?

A: NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE. UNQUOTE.

3. POSTS MAY WISH TO REVIEW EARLIER PRESS GUIDANCE, DRAFTED LAST MONTH, FOR USG POSITION ON GABBUGGIANI VISIT AS A WHOLE:

QUOTE: Q: THE COMMUNIST MAYOR OF FLORENCE, ELIO GABBUGGIANI, HAS BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND A CEREMONY IN DETROIT IN APRIL. WILL THE DEPARTMENT GRANT HIM A VISA?

A: MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT HE IS COMING IN HIS CAPACITY AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, THAT IS, AS MAYOR OF FLORENCE. HIS VISIT WOULD, THEREFORE, SEEM TO FALL UNDER THAT CATEGORY OF COMMUNIST TRAVELERS WHO, IN THE PAST, HAVE BEEN GIVEN VISAS ROUTINELY AND IN LARGE NUMBERS.

Q: WON'T THIS BE A TEST OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS VISAS FOR COMMUNISTS?

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A: AS I SAID ABOVE, THIS APPLICATION DOESN'T REALLY BREAK NEW GROUND. ON BACKGROUND: AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE REVIEWING OUR VISA POLICY ACROSS THE BOARD, BUT THERE IS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR A VISIT LIKE GABBUGGIANI'S AND WE DON'T CONSIDER IT A TEST OF ANYTHING. IN 1974, THE COMMUNIST MAYOR OF CORTONA MADE A TRIP TO GEORGIA SIMILAR TO GABBUGGIANI'S; JUST LAST YEAR TWO FLORENCE CITY COUNCILORS, MEMBERS OF THE PCI, ACCOMPANIED A DELEGATION TO NEW YORK; TWO PCI OFFICIALS FROM MILAN CAME WITH LA SCALA AS PART OF OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS; AND SO FORTH.

Q: BUT WASN'T GABBUGGIANI HIMSELF DENIED A VISA LAST YEAR?

A: GABBUGGIANI DID NOT APPLY FOR A VISA LAST YEAR. UNQUOTE.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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